

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Department of Natural Resources

Room 3710

January 10, 2006

Minutes

Member Present:

HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks and Recreation
JAMES, Bill – Division of Wildlife Resources
STONELY, Todd – Division of Water Resources
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights
GRIERSON, Dave – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pamela – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn – Public Lands Policy Section
LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of Natural Resources
HIGDON, Matthew – Bureau of Land Management
HANSEN, Michael – GOPB
COTTAM, Brian – GOPB (speaker phone)
GARCIA, Tim – U.S. Forest Service

Kimm Harty, Utah Geological Survey, chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes/Announcements

The Committee will review the December 13, 2005 draft minutes and send comments to Brenda Landureth, brendalandureth@utah.gov. The minutes will be approved at the next meeting. All meetings will be held at the Utah Department of Natural Resources, administration conference room 3710.

II. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

The *Oil Shale/Tar Sands and Geothermal Development Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (PEIS) is a prototype national programmatic EIS. Scoping meetings in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The first scoping meeting will be held in Salt Lake City, 1-3 p.m. or 7-10 p.m. at Little America. Public scoping meetings will be held in Price on January 11th and Vernal on January 12th, 2006. Comments are due January 31, 2006.

Matthew Higdon, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), reported that the *Proposed Vegetation Treatment of BLM – Managed Lands EIS* comment period has been postponed to February 10, 2006. Kanab Resource Management Plan (RMP) will have a 30-day review of Wild and Scenic River and ACEC review ends on January 27, 2006.

The Utah BLM project contact for the Southern Nevada Water Authority team is Tom Mendenall, (801) 539-4073. BLM is requesting comments on the five environmental assessments for Utah fire management plans revisions for Moab, Cedar City, Vernal and Richfield and Salt Lake City by February 17, 2006. More information is available on the website www.utah.blm.gov.

The Price RMP is working on Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and the Vernal RMP is developing information on potential ACECs due to recent comments received about a federal register formality requirement. Matthew Hidgon will send Carolyn Wright the December 19, 2005 notice.

Brian Cottom, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB), announced Utah counties are interested in being involved in the socio-economic aspect of planning efforts in the state. Concerns regarding economic impacts may not be complete. Next year several counties are seeking funding for socio-economic studies. Utah State University is currently conducting socio-economic research.

Todd Stonely, Division of Water Resources, reported that the division is working on river basin planning for Cedar City, Beaver, Kanab, Utah Lake and Jordan River. Synderville water development and supply planning will be completed within two months. Two projects will be completed in 10-15 years.

Dave Grierson, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, reported that a draft Comprehensive Management Plan for Bear Lake will be completed by June. Utah State University will complete a baseline study for the plan.

Mike Hansen, reported that GOPB is under contract to provide social and economic information, analysis and assessment of tribes and counties in support of the revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Ashley National Forest. He requested a brief statement from each agency that may be used to shape recommendations. Please send comments to Brian Carver at bcarver@utah.gov or call 538-1153 before January 18, 2006.

The Association of Governments is working on a Request for Proposal for a study to better understand the social and economic impacts of oil and gas development on community planning. The outdoor recreation task force is working on actions to resolve issues.

Tim Garcia, U.S. Forest Service, reported that the Uinta National Forest Programmatic Oil and Gas EIS will be initiate in 2006. The draft Fish Lake Oil and Gas and the draft Dixie Travel Management Plan Programmatic EIS will be completed in 4-5 months. The draft Ashley National Forest and the draft Uinta National Oil and Gas EIS will be completed by the end of 2006.

Bill James, Division of Wildlife Resources, reported that due to recent retirements the division has up to a 50% staff shortage.

Dave Grierson reported that the attorneys have met regarding the Great Salt Lake hearing that will be held in early February on executive order to suspend any oil and gas leasing on Great Salt Lake. More public input is requested for lease offerings and additional planning for each lease track. The parties involved claim that the RDCC process is not

enough time for sufficient comment. U.S. Geological Survey is completing a bathymetric study on the north arm of the lake to determine fault line location.

III. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

A handout of the current status of the RDCC Project Management System was provided to the committee. No items were discussed.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 a.m. by a motion from Pam Grubaugh-Littig and seconded by Dave Grierson. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in room 3710.